



State of South Carolina Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 12267
COLUMBIA 29211

May 28, 2010

The Honorable André Bauer
President of the Senate
State House, 1st Floor, East Wing
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Dear Mr. President and Members of the Senate:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval S. 1379, R. 235, a bill that renames the "South Carolina Guardian *ad Litem* Program" as the "Cass Elias McCarter Guardian *ad Litem* Program."

The bill is intended to honor Mrs. Cass Elias McCarter, and I'd begin by highlighting her outstanding record of service. Anyone who takes the time to learn about Mrs. McCarter's contributions to our State knows that she should indeed be remembered as a distinguished citizen. For 16 years, she devoted her life and energy to protecting South Carolina's children from abuse and neglect. In 1984, she helped to establish the first state-funded Guardian *ad Litem* program in the nation that utilizes volunteers as Guardians *ad Litem* in abuse and neglect proceedings. She also served on the South Carolina Children's Committee and assisted the Joint Legislative Committee on Children with developing the training program for the Guardian *ad Litem* volunteers. Children also benefited from her work and support on behalf of the Children's Hospital and the Ronald McDonald House.

Nonetheless, our administration has long opposed the naming of state projects and programs for public figures or state employees regardless of the stature and quality of their service. This position goes back to my time in Congress when I voted against the renaming of National Airport to Ronald Reagan National Airport, though I had the utmost respect for President Reagan's character and accomplishments. Similarly, I voted against a variety of bills that would have named federal post offices after former members of Congress.

On a personal level, I want to reiterate my respect for Mrs. McCarter and her service to our state and children. Unfortunately, though, this legislation would continue a practice with which I respectfully disagree.

For these reasons, I am vetoing and returning without my approval S. 1379, R. 235.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford